in all respect and approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

No proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for development and promotion of tourism complete in all respects is pending with the Ministry of Tourism.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time through review meetings and inspection visits by officers of the Ministry.

**Exploration of places of Ramayana age in Sri Lanka**

†86. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that places connected with Shri Ram, Sita, Ravan and Hanumanji have been found in Sri Lanka during the exploration being carried out by Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the results of exploration made till date;

(c) whether Government is considering to extend co-operation in the exploration of the places connected with Shri Ram, Sita, Ravan and Hanumanji taking inspiration from Government of Sri Lanka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Culture has no information regarding such archaeological explorations by the Government of Sri Lanka.

**Depletion of water table**

87. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the blocks or districts in the country that have been included in the dark zone following depletion of water table there;

(b) whether any steps like the recharging process have been initiated in these districts; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'.

(b) and (c) The measures taken for promoting rain water harvesting and artificial recharge include demonstrative recharge projects, scheme for "Artificial Recharge to ground water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through dugwells', Awareness Programmes and Training Courses on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water, circulation of Model Bill' to enable States/UTs to enact suitable legislation for regulations and control of ground water development and management, institution of Bhoomijal, Samvardhan Puraskar and National Water Award to encourage the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)/Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies (for population up to 1 lakh) for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge through people's participation and Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) to create awareness about water conservation and rainwater harvesting. As per the feed back received through CGWB, these measures have yielded positive impact on the ground water regime.

**Losses of properties due to flood**

88. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the country on an average losing 1600 lives and Rs. 1800 crore worth of properties including crops, annually due to floods. Government has proposed to pump in Rs. 8000 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to assist States in the execution of flood management works;

(b) whether another scheme costing Rs. 1500 crore for river management works in border areas and critical flood management work in the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins; and

(c) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and whether any guidelines in this regard is issued with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide assistance to State Government, a scheme for "Flood Management Programme" with an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crore has been approved under State sector of Central Plan. A Central Sector scheme for "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas" under Central Plan has also been envisaged in Eleventh Plan under which various activities for Ministry of Water Resources and its organization are undertaken.

Guidelines for providing Central assistance to States under the scheme for Flood Management Programme have been issued to all States in December 2007.

**Proposal for drinking water from rivers**

89. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under active consideration of Government to get drinking water from the source of the rivers instead of getting it from the banks near the residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the rivers identified for obtaining drinking water and by when the water would be sourced; and

(d) how long Government would take to provide drinking water to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES